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Admits running CIA front

Richmond, Va. (UPI)—A former city councilman and FBI agent confirms he set up a phony business research firm in the 1950s that was used by the CIA as a front to train spies.

"I did it as a patriotic citizen," John E. Lawler, 73, told The Richmond News Leader. Lawler said he began accepting CIA assignments when he retired from the Richmond FBI office in 1950 and became an executive of an insurance company.